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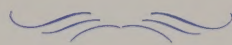
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1751
MECHANICSTOWN

1951
THURMONT

BICENTENNIAL



AND HOMECOMING



SOUVENIR PROGRAM

THURMONT BICENTENNIAL AND HOMECOMING

THURMONT, MARYLAND

JULY 22 THROUGH JULY 29



View of Thurmont taken from Shipley's Observatory about 1900 by Richard J. O'Toole. Loaned by courtesy of Dr. Michael O'Toole.

Foreword

The Bicentennial of Old Mechanicstown, now Thurmont, has prompted certain civic-minded persons of the community to prepare a resume of its history that a permanent record may be preserved for posterity.

Many persons have been active in research into the history of the town and their combined efforts are here presented in a necessarily condensed form.

It was the plan of the committee to include every possible historic fact coming to our knowledge. To accomplish this it was necessary to omit much interesting material all of which has been kept, looking forward to the time when the history of Thurmont may be compiled and published in full.

Perhaps some may be disappointed that fuller treatment has not been given certain subjects or that some facts have been entirely omitted. For omissions, we apologize, and again say that the limited space in a souvenir booklet requires condensation of material.

We trust our efforts will bring you much pleasure and that you will always cherish this brochure among your prized possessions. To all who have in any way contributed to the making of this record, we express our sincere appreciation.

THE COMMITTEE

Thurmont

Thurmont lies at the foot of the hills
And its street runs into the mountain,
And very near are the singing rills
And the foam of a forest fountain;
And the old homes stand in such friendly guise
As if to welcome you in
From the world of struggle and strife
And the hatred, evil and sin.

All day long the seasons flow,
The peaks of the ridge beyond it
Are telling of dreams that come and go
To the orchards that softly frond it;
And the lovely park in its quiet peace
Brings back as fine a story
Of the lads that served for the great increase
Of freedom and of glory.

Thurmont stands with its back to the blue
Of the hills, and looks away
To the vales that lie in the frost and dew
And the mists of the autumn gray;
And wandering spirits of fancy dwell
In the nooks and the lovely hollows,
And ever the kiss of the mountain spell
The way of the wanderer follows.

Thurmont, high on the hoary knob,
And yet so nestled down
In the tender arms of the mystic hills
That dream of the mountain town;
As I shall dream, as I go my way,
Remembering, aye, so long,
How the autumn sun shone yesterday
On its peace and beauty and song!

—THE BENTZTOWN BARD.

—Courtesy Frederick "News-Post"

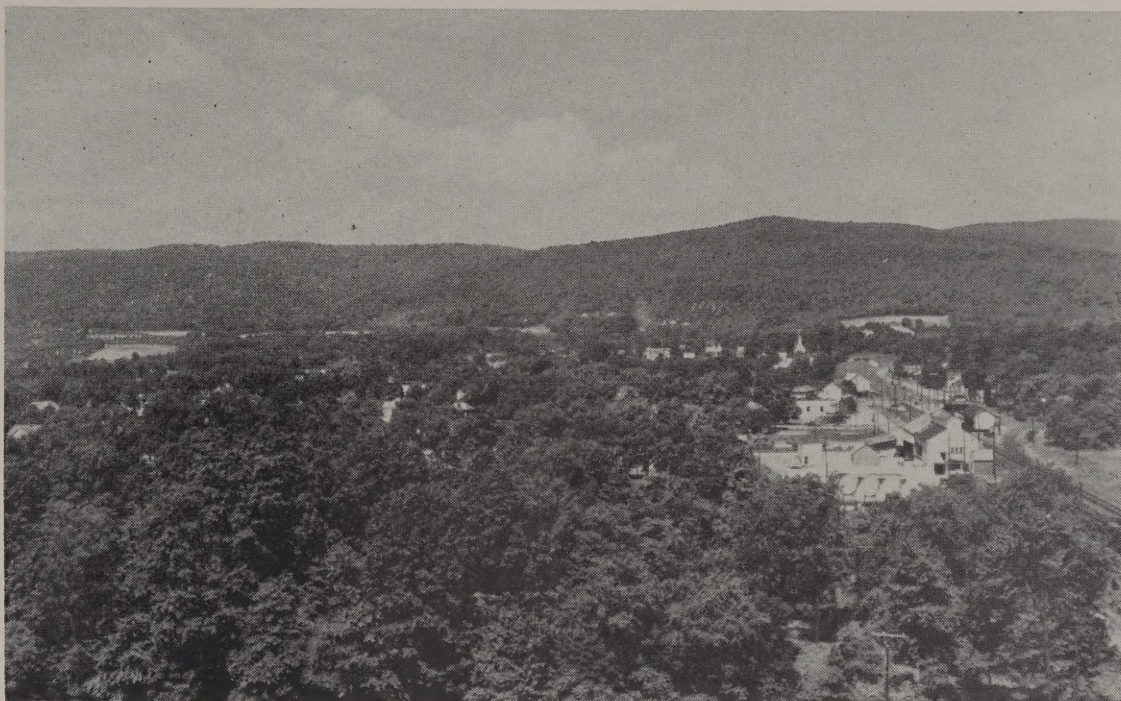


Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

THURMONT AT THE FOOT OF CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN
CHIMNEY ROCK IN THE BACKGROUND

Thurmont - Gateway To The Mountain

Situated among the foothills of the Catoclin spur of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Thurmont has lived for 200 years. It has an elevation of 523 feet and so close is the western end of town to the mountains that the highways soon lose themselves in the wooded slopes of higher levels. As viewed from certain directions the homes and church spires against the mountain background suggest scenes in the Old World where many generations have come and gone upon the stage of life. The broad sweep of the Catoclin Mountains stretches from the southern end of Frederick County to the rather abrupt slope of Carrick's Knob which dominates Emmitsburg. It is a panorama of which the Nature lover never tires — unmovable but friendly — with changing lights and shades of full sunshine and cloud shadows, somber under stormy skies, but patiently reminding the observer "We are here to stay." The beauty and strength of the mountains with the rich colorings of green, deep blue and, under certain atmospheric conditions, azure, charm the eye and refresh the mind, a picturesqueness constant and yet changing as the seasons change. The fresh green of spring and summer is followed by the rich colors of Autumn's

tapestry, and in winter the snow covering the ground beneath the leafless trees suggests Nature's protection under winter's blanket.

Within easy walking distance, for those who like to climb, is the town's nearest mountain, Chimney Rock, named appropriately from the pile of rock upon its summit. Its elevation is 1500 feet and from the top a lovely and extensive view is obtained of the town and many prosperous looking farms which so largely have made the activities of the dwellers of the past as well as of those of the present. Fed by mountain springs, Hunting Creek winds its way through the leafy wilderness breaking into rapids and picturesque falls. This wild, rocky creek makes its path down the mountain side pushing onward through the valley and finally reaching its goal in the Monocacy River. Trout fishing in the stream affords the patient angler his seasonal joys, and pools and broad smooth rocks invite picnic parties. Especially in the past delights of a picnic at Sandy Hole were not to be lightly esteemed, so within easy reach of the town, merrymakers have long enjoyed this beauty spot which Hunting Creek provides. Cunningham Falls is a series of cascades for approximately half a mile and



Courtesy of Geo. W. Wireman, Jr.

SANDY HOLE IN HUNTING CREEK — a favorite picnic site and swimming pool.



Courtesy of Geo. W. Wireman, Jr.

CROW'S NEST — SITE OF LYNN'S POTTERY — now a Youth Hostel



Courtesy of Geo. W. Wireman, Jr.

WEBSTER'S SPRING, 1900 — At the edge of the mountains and famous for its pure, cold water.

with a total drop of between 70 and 100 feet. This is a most fascinating spot in Hunting Creek, a gorge where ferns and hemlocks grow, and where one sees the very "bones" of the mountains uncovered to view, and many are those who seek its charm both from far away or from the easy four miles from town.

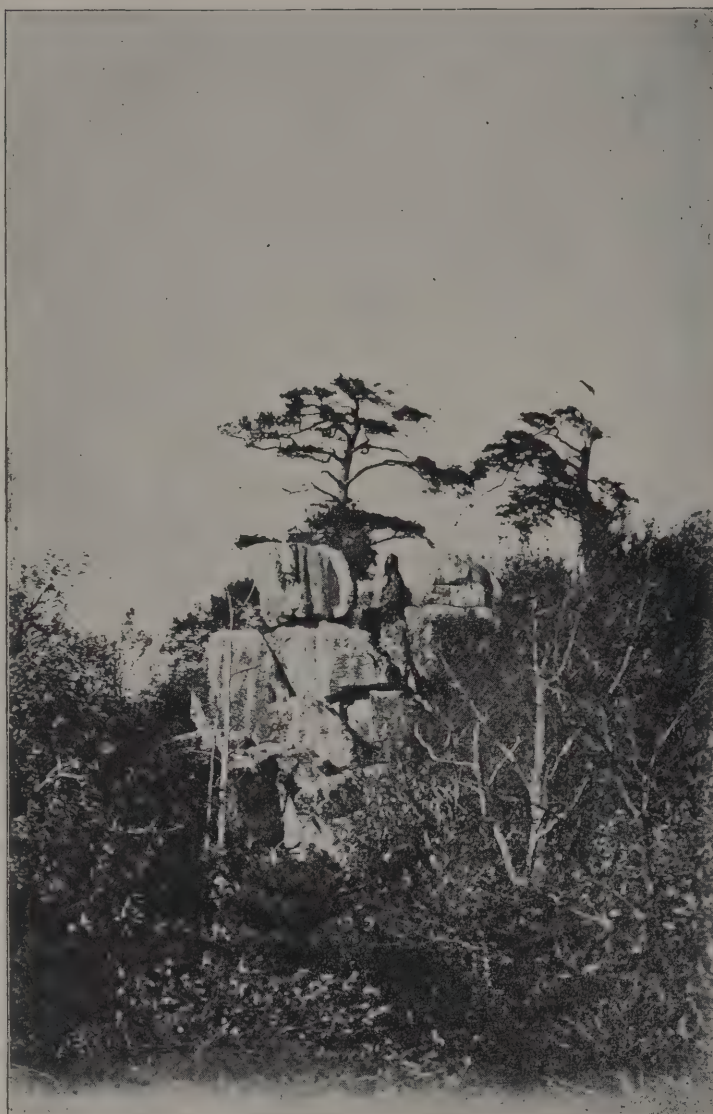
North of Chimney Rock rises Eagle Mountain 1600 feet, the highest point in the vicinity. Densely wooded to the top, as an eagle with outspread wings, it seems to offer protecting strength to the whole locality and invites to contemplation and speculative thought, for "Who can fathom the dreams of Mountains as in their sleep they brood on things eternal!" Tucked away between the mountains are the fertile valleys bearing the names of families which have long made this section their home.

Harbaugh's Valley, through which the Western Maryland Railway runs to Hagerstown, and the smaller Eylers' Valley, are snugly placed at the foot of Eagle Mountain. The very word "valley" seems to imply a pleasing sense of security and comfortable going — a place where men establish their homesteads.

Between Chimney Rock and Eagle Mountain, Owens Creek winds its rocky way from

its birthplace in the mountains. It flows on steadily emptying finally into the Monocacy River. It greatly enhances the rugged scenery along the roadway from Thurmont to the Harbaugh Valley where it turns sharply west. Mountain slopes invite camps and several are to be found within a few miles of the town and within the Government restricted area. While they are in this area they are nevertheless self operated. "Camp Peniel" is the nearest, located on the side of Hunting Creek. It is under the auspices of the Church of the Brethren and provides recreation for boys and girls during the summer months. It has the facilities for pleasant camp life and year by year improvements are made to add to its attractions. Farther up the mountain is "Misty Mount" camp which the Salvation Army uses in its beneficent work. "Greentop" occupies a cleared level spot surrounded by woods. Well fitted with substantial and attractive log cabins and a bright tiled swimming pool it ministers to crippled children through the summer. Also within the Governmental area are the public picnic grounds with all the requisites for the picnic-minded to enjoy. Not far away but unapproachable is the Presidential retreat, Shangri-La, which was originally a camp site before being remade for its present purpose.

On a foothill of Eagle Mountain overlooking the town and miles around is "Camp Airy." A spacious house, pool and surrounding cabins provide many pleasures for the Jewish boys who are privileged to come and enjoy its benefits. From school closing time to the opening in September the boys are coming and going. On the grounds of one of the old homesteads of Thurmont at the western end of town is an American Youth Hostel, near to inviting trails; it has proven to be a great pleasure to those organized hikers for the past ten years and is used by them all the year round. Nature's beauties and romance go hand in hand and memories of happy days of youth center around a certain chestnut tree and its enclosing bench. The tree, now long ago fallen from its proud position, is still a fond, tender, and perhaps somewhat amusing memory to a generation to whom memories are a rich possession. The home gardens attest the love of the flowery kingdom with their bright and varied blooms, and when one thinks of gardens thoughts of our feathered friends and the welcome they justly receive when they return year by year are inseparable. Mountain, valley, garden, stream, and bird life are complements of each other in Nature's plan for beauty in living.



Courtesy of Geo. W. Wireman, Jr.

CHIMNEY ROCK—So called because the rock formation seems to resemble a chimney.

Early Settlers

According to tradition, five families, the Wellers, Creagers, Wilhides, Firors, and Eylers early settled in the vicinity of Thurmont. They were known as Palatines because they came from the Palatinate of the Rhine in Germany, and they came to America to escape religious persecution in their own country.

A settlement had been made on the Monocacy River about 1729 and Lorenz Krieger (Creager) and his wife Elizabeth were among the original settlers. Lorenz and his son John laid out the town of Creagerstown and owned,

by grant, most of the land from there to the mountains.

There were two distinct Weller families. John Weller came from Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1730, settled in New Jersey, and later removed to Reading, Pennsylvania. In 1738 he joined with Jacob Weller, who had emigrated from Berleburg, Germany, and the Wilhides, Firors and Eylers and followed the valleys down into the fertile lands of Frederick County. When these families arrived in the Thurmont locality, tradition says they made camp by a "Cold Spring" which is on the property of

Penrose Schildt. Here Jacob Weller built a log house. It is said that a child was ill, and on its death was "buried on the hill above" their camp.

Finding this beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain country so very much like the native land they had left, the hardy pioneer families decided to remain. Building homes, they shortly opened blacksmith and wagon repair shops. Later, Jacob Weller from Berleburg, Germany, settled in Graceham.

Jacob Weller, son of John Weller, the original settler in Mechanicstown, married Anna Krall in 1774, and their eldest son Jacob Weller, B.S., was a man of vision, possessing great qualities of leadership. In his generation he was one of the most able of Mechanicstown's citizens. Attaining his majority he suffixed his signature with the initials, B.S., meaning "Blacksmith," to distinguish himself from the many Jacob Wellers, who at that time lived in or near Mechanicstown. As were all early members of this family, Jacob, B.S., was a skilled mechanic.

In 1800 Jacob Weller, B.S., married Anna Margaret Weller, a daughter of John Jacob Weller of the Graceham branch and thus merged the two Weller families.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

CUNNINGHAM FALLS — In Recreational Area near the picnic grounds.

North of Thurmont, the Eylers homesteaded in the beautiful "Eyer's Valley" while the Wilhides chose land to the west and north of Thurmont.

Leonard Fierohr (Firor) landed in Philadelphia in 1732 from Bavaria, Germany. His family first settled in Baltimore County, but due to disputes between Lord Baltimore and William Penn, they came to Frederick County. His grant of land comprised 250 acres and was named "Father's Farewell." This is the property now owned by Maurice Albaugh where the fish ponds are located. Leonard Firor II came into possession of the home place and lived on it until he died in 1843. Sophia, granddaughter of Leonard Firor II, married James Creager of the Monocacy settlement.

James Creager was a prominent citizen, cabinetmaker and undertaker of Mechanicstown. He owned and operated for many years a cabinetmaking shop and made, with the help of his sons, Wesley and Luther, most of the coffins needed for miles around.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

CHESTNUT TREE 1900—The Old Trysting Tree



Courtesy of Geo. W. Wireman, Jr.

HUNTING CREEK GAP — (Harman's Gap) — The route of the early settlers.

These early settlers acquired lots from the Creagers and in 1751 a few buildings were erected along the road leading from Hagerstown, via "Harman's Gap," to Baltimore. Other houses were built, though scattered several miles through the wooded country, and thus began the town of Mechanicstown.

The town derived its name from the fact that its population was composed principally of mechanics who set up blacksmith, tilt-hammer, and wheelwright shops along the old route. Mechanicstown was incorporated in 1832 and the first burgess was a Mr. Adelsberger. The first store was kept by Jacob Firor in 1806 and the first post-office was opened in 1811.

Early Industries

EDGE TOOL FACTORY

Jacob Weller, B.S., strides across the pages of Mechanicstown's history as a vivid figure, a man whose interests and attainments were notable in this frontier period. He built Mechanicstown's first hotel in 1800, Gilbert House, to accommodate travelers who passed along the great road leading through the mountain gap to Hagerstown.

In 1811 he started an extensive edge tool factory located on and run by a small stream called Hunting Creek. It was operated as a tilt hammer forge and was the first establishment of its kind south of New York. He would start his tilt hammers before daybreak and these served as an alarm clock for the early-rising townspeople. Tools of all descriptions went out from this factory to all parts

of the South and as far as the West Indies. This factory continued until near 1850.

Jacob Weller, B.S., became famous for the skill used in the manufacture of edge tools; hence the name "Blacksmith," or B.S.

TANNERIES

In 1793 Daniel Rouzer built a tannery near the town and his son, John Rouzer, born in 1815, who succeeded him, became one of the leading tanners and influential citizens of Western Maryland. A marble slab, used for entrance walk to the George Wireman property on Carroll Street, is a relic from the Rouzer tannery. The stone was used to smooth out leather.

In 1820 the celebrated Hunting Creek



Courtesy of Geo. W. Wireman, Jr.

OLD MATCH HOUSE — Here the first Zucifer matches in the United States were made.

Tannery was established by Richard Jones of Baltimore. It had 200 vats and tanned 25,000 sides of superior leather yearly.

Henry Rouzer was proprietor of a tannery, located on East Main Street, where Samuel Long's house now stands. The bark sheds were along the street and the vats where the garden is located.

Other tanneries were established until in 1831 there were seven in the town and vicinity.

MATCHES — OLD MATCH HOUSE

In a little gray stone house on West Main Street the first lucifer matches manufactured in America were made by Joseph and John Weller, sons of Jacob Weller, B.S., in 1825.

The matches were made into blocks, sub-divided and then dipped one by one into brimstone mixture. As this discovery became known the demand increased, but twice things went awry and the interior of the little factory was ruined by explosion and fire.

What ended Mechanics-town's match production is a fascinating minor mystery. The old Match House is still standing though not in its original form. It was used as a cachet for the celebration of "National Air Mail" week in May 1938, Mr. Earl T. Kelbaugh, postmaster, being the sponsor.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

FIRST HOUSE IN MECHANICSTOWN — Built of logs and abandoned before the arrival of the early settlers.

Across the road from the Match Factory, Jacob Weller, B.S., built a house of native stone in 1805. Later he sold this house to George Johnson. The present owners and occupants, the Misses Zimmerman, purchased the property from the Johnson heirs in 1889.

LYNN'S POTTERY

Prior to the year 1860 Lynn's Pottery, situated on the road leading to "Crow's Nest," the property now owned by Mrs. Frances Weller, made flower pots, crocks, jugs and vases of all sizes, both plain and ornamental.

There are many beautiful pieces of pottery owned by different citizens of our community that were made at this pottery. A sugar bowl is on exhibition at the Metropolitan Art Museum, New York.

In September, 1881, Mr. Lynn built a new pottery on Keller Avenue, Mechanicstown, now Boundary Avenue, Thurmont, and employed



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SCHILDT'S HOUSE — The camp site of the early settlers because of the "Cold Spring."

George H. Parker, a skillful master of the trade.

A sun dial was made from the old potter's wheel which was found by Albert Gernand at the old pottery plant and is now on Mr. Gernand's property west of town.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

That Mechanicstown merited its name is shown by the many other industries which flourished. A large woolen mill was established in 1815 by J. Conradt and operated successfully for forty years. There were several weaving establishments, a nail factory making hand-wrought nails, Little's Cooperage on West Main Street, Cigar factories, the old Casket Works, carriage and harness shops, hosiery and garment factories, all important because of their products and the employment furnished to the townspeople. More recently the Crecite Excelsior Works organized in 1898 by J. Wesley Creeger, Samuel T. Birely and V. W. Winchester was an important



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

GILBERT HOUSE 1800 — First hotel in Mechanicstown, built by Jacob Weller, B.S.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

JOHNSON HOUSE — Built in 1805 by Jacob Weller, B.S.

industry. The original plant was destroyed by fire but was immediately rebuilt upon a larger scale, Mr. Creeger becoming the sole owner.

An extensive ice cream plant was operated by Mackley Brothers. Hundreds of gallons of ice cream, frozen and packed in tubs with natural ice were delivered weekly to nearby towns. The flour mill of Daniel R. Rouzer was the most modern in this section and operated where the Thurmont Cooperative now stands.

Where We Worship



Courtesy of Geo. W. Wireman, Jr.

APPLE'S CHURCH — Built in 1770 and named for Peter Apple

APPLE'S CHURCH

REV. EDOUARD H. TAYLOR, Pastor

Apple's Church, the oldest church in Thurmont, situated one mile east of the town, was dedicated April 16, 1770, for the joint use of

Reformed and Lutheran worshippers. It was named for Peter Apple who gave one acre of land adjoining his farm for the church, a school house, and a cemetery. The deed was given on March 19, 1769, to Matthias Ambrose, Jacob Matthews, and Jacob Ambrose, Trustees.

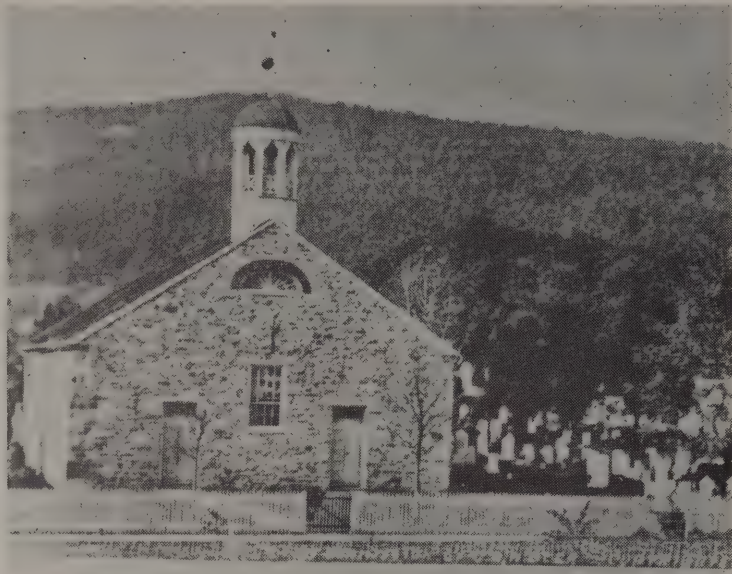


Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

WELLER'S CHURCH — United Brethren In Christ, built 1830.

The first church building was of logs. It is stated that in one corner of the church, called "gun corner," racks were provided for the guns which the worshippers carried as a protection against marauding Indians. In 1800 the church was enlarged and a gallery added. A new and larger church was built in 1826. It was of stone construction, had two tiers of windows, a gallery, and an old type high pulpit.

In 1857 the Lutheran congregation, under Reverend William Hunt, withdrew and built a church for themselves in Mechanicstown. In 1879, the Reformed congregation did likewise. A few remained loyal to the old church. In 1912 they remodeled the church by lowering the walls, removing the gallery and upper tier of windows, and modernizing the pulpit. While this modernized the church, it destroyed its historicity as a landmark.

EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

REV. IVAN G. NAUGLE, Pastor

The United Brethren, Weller's Church, was organized in 1830, and in 1831 the building was consecrated. The ground upon which the church stands was part of the original grant of land to the Wellers in 1751 from Lord Baltimore. Jacob Weller, B.S., donated the ground for the church and cemetery. The original paper signed and sealed by the trustees reads as follows:

"Whereas, we whose names are underwritten, do think and believe it our duty to our God, our posterity, and our fellow citizens to build and establish a house of worship in Mechanicstown, Maryland, for the use and purposes of the United Brethren in Christ, and also guaranteeing privi-

leges to ministers of other persuasions whose piety and purity of doctrine shall commend them to the trustees, if there be no appointment previous to the applications. Likewise there will be the privilege of burying at the meeting house for all subscribers and successors. Moreover this meeting house shall forthwith be known by the appellation of 'Weller's Church' in the name of the

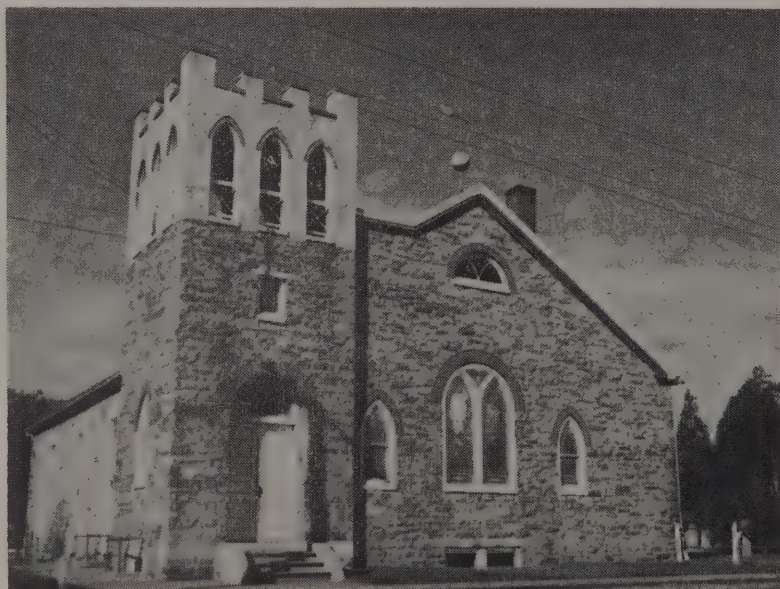


Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH — (Weller's Church) Remodeled 1916.

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Praying that the Lord may here record His Name and consecrate this building unto Himself, sanctifying the worshippers here and elsewhere unto Himself, in time and in eternity, through our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Jacob Weller, B.S.
George Stokes
Henry Hemp
Frederick Rider
Jacob Martin
Reuben Osler

In 1916, during the pastorate of Rev. Paul Holdcraft, a vestibule and bell tower were erected. In 1929, while Rev. H. E. Krone was pastor, a modern basement was constructed under the entire church. Since then further improvements have been made.

MORAVIAN CHURCH, GRACEHAM

REV. PAUL ZELLER, Pastor

The Moravian congregation at Graceham, though one of the oldest Moravian congregations in America, did not begin as a Moravian Church. A log church had been built about 1730 along the Monocacy River by the early settlers who worshipped there whenever an



Courtesy of Rev. Paul Zeller
MORAVIAN CHURCH and Parsonage, Graceham. Original church was built in 1749.

itinerant minister visited the area. In 1745 John Herzer, a Moravian, was sent to the settlement as a lay reader and school teacher. A group from this congregation built in Graceham in 1749, on a grant of land from Daniel Dulany, a log church which also served as school house and parsonage. Later the congregation asked to become officially a part of the Moravian Church.

The church and its affiliated school prospered. The carefully kept records give an almost day-by-day account of church and neighborhood life. These records show that the first Early Easter Service was conducted in 1763. Ten years later a larger church was added to the original building and the present parsonage was completed in 1798.

In 1822 a new church building was erected, and it, with the adjoining parsonage, was covered with white stucco in 1944.

Among the cherished possessions of former years is the old pipe organ said to be the sole remaining unaltered organ built by the pioneer American organ builder, David Tanneberger.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH — Original built 1851, remodeled 1878-79

MORAVIAN CHURCH, THURMONT

At a Congregational Council of Graceham Moravian Church, convened on February 15, 1874, it was resolved "That we, the members of this congregation, regard it as highly essential to the permanent well-being of our Church in this portion of God's heritage, to have a permanent and suitable house of worship at Mechanicstown." As a result, a lot was purchased on Water Street and a Church built. It was dedicated December 6, 1874, by Bishop E. de Schweinitz of Bethlehem, Pa. For forty-four years the Church served the community. On September 1, 1918, the last service was held and the membership was transferred to the Graceham Church.

The church building was sold, changes made, and is now occupied by the American Store.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

REV. A. E. GRIM, Pastor

Methodism in Thurmont had its beginning in a schoolhouse opposite the present Methodist Church. Here services were held for several years before the present church was built in 1851. The present building was erected during the pastorate of Rev. B. C. Flowers who with Andrew Sefton and Tuisco Marlow were trustees. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Henry Slicer.

In the years 1878-79 under the leadership of Rev. W. P. West the church was remodeled and improved. In October 1901 the "Semi-Centennial" was observed. The preacher on that occasion was the Rev. G. W. Cooper who had served as assistant pastor at the time the church was built.

Under the leadership of the Rev. R. G. Koontz, in 1908, the church was enlarged, a belfry and Sunday School room being added. In 1947 work on the erection of an Education Building was begun, consisting of class rooms, social hall, and kitchen. The Sanctuary has been remodeled and was rededicated September 25, 1949.

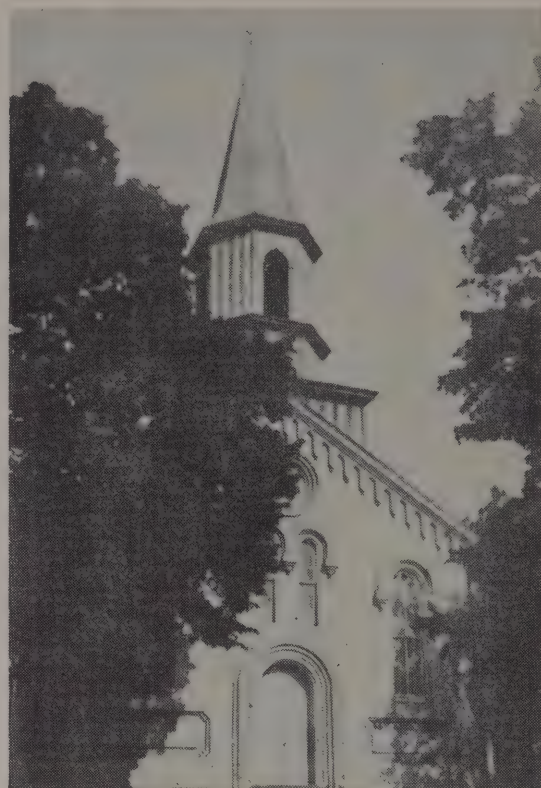


Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

Original ST. JOHN'S EVAN. LUTHERAN CHURCH, erected 1857, Remodeled 1909, as below.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

**OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH —
Erected 1856.**



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

**TRINITY EVAN. & REFORMED CHURCH — Erected 1879.
Enlarged 1901.**

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

REV. C. H. CORBETT, Pastor

The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church grew out of the early Apple's Church, located one mile east of Thurmont where a union Lutheran and Reformed Church was built in 1770. The Lutheran congregation withdrew in 1857, and, under the leadership of Rev. William Hunt, erected a church of brick and stone on Church Street.

In 1889, Rev. J. H. Barb, pastor, edited a monthly paper known as Church and Home. This paper contained personal items, news of local events and church notes. During this same period, a pipe organ was installed in the church.

In 1909 while Rev. M. L. Beard was pastor, the church was rebuilt and enlarged with Sunday School rooms on the first floor and a main auditorium on the second. A new two-manual Mohler pipe organ was installed in 1930 under Rev. Charles H. Corbett, and a new building added in 1939 to enable the Sunday School to be departmentalized. In the same year the Carillonic Tower Chimes were donated in memory of Barbara Ella and Grayson Curtis Weddle by their children.

Another memorial is the Westminster Chime Clock given by Miss Linnie McGuigan. This clock was dedicated November 22, 1942.

**OUR LADY OF
MT. CARMEL CHURCH**

REV. VINCENT J.
TOMALSKI, Pastor

This church, constructed of stone quarried from the Catoctin Mountains, is a continuation of the parish started in 1745 when a chapel was erected on the farm of William Elder about one-half mile south of Mt. St. Mary's.

Construction of the



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

**ST. STEPHENS PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH —
Erected 1891.**

church in Mechanicstown was begun in 1856 and the church was dedicated the following year. Dr. John McCaffrey, President of Mt. St. Mary's College, preached the dedication sermon. While plans were being formed for building the church, Father William McCloskey began a mission here. He said mass in the home of John Wilhide. The Rev. John H. Conway was the first resident pastor.

Under Father Curran, the church was beautifully frescoed. The seventy-fifth anniversary was celebrated in 1932. A vestibule, with stone from the original quarry was built under the direction of Father Read, and the grounds improved by a stone wall along Church Street. Rev. Edward H. Roach added stained glass windows and a Mohler pipe organ, and had the church redecorated. Further improvements were made to sacristy, vestibule and grounds under the pastorate of Rev. Roger K. Wooden.

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
and REFORMED CHURCH**

REV. EDOUARD H.
TAYLOR, Pastor

The Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church is an off-shoot of the Reformed congregation of Apple's Church. During the pastorate of Rev. Henry Wissler, it was deemed advisable to organize a Reformed congregation in Mechanicstown. A building committee, consisting of Uriah Warrenfeltz, W. L. Firor and D. S. Firor, was appointed to select a site and solicit building funds. A lot was purchased on East Main Street, and on November 1, 1879, the cornerstone was laid. The new church was dedi-



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

**CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, built 1923, replacing one
built in 1892.**

cated the following year as Trinity Reformed Church.

On Sept. 1, 1901, during the pastorate of Rev. George Whitmore, ground was broken for the enlarged church as it now stands, and the completed church was dedicated July 20, 1902.



Photo by Frank Keefer

HARRIOT CHAPEL, CATOCTIN FURNACE — Consecrated as an Episcopal Church in 1833.

The Evangelical Synod of North America and The Reformed Church in the United States united in 1934, and the Thurmont Church was then known as Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Active church organizations are the King's Daughters, organized in 1889, and the Missionary Society organized in 1914. The latter society is now a part of the Women's Guild.

ST. STEPHENS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

REV. OSCAR F. R. TREDER, D.D., Rector

St. Stephens Episcopal Church, in Catoclin Parish, was built in 1891 through the efforts of Mrs. William McPherson of Catoclin, and during the rectorship of Rev. Richard Whittingham. It is full of beautiful memorials to friends and relatives of those who contributed to the building of the church. Among them should be mentioned three windows. One, a memorial to Mrs. McPherson, one, in memory of Rev. Ernest McGill, rector from 1896 until his death in 1906. The third window is in memory of his wife, a daughter of Mrs. McPherson.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

REV. CARL YODER, Pastor

As early as 1761, preaching services were held here in the home of a few German settlers by Elder Daniel Leatherman, first Bishop of the Maryland Church of the Brethren, who had settled at Garfield, seven miles west of Mechanicstown. He was assisted by Jacob Danner and Daniel Seiler.

After Daniel Leatherman died in 1798, the appointments were neglected until Jacob Leatherman, grandson of Daniel, took up the burden of the work. He was known as the "Walking Preacher," traveling on foot to four preaching places each Sabbath, of which Mechanicstown was one.

In the year 1831, a union church was built in Mechanicstown, and a small group of Brethren joined the congregation. After thirty years, the Brethren withdrew and held services in a schoolhouse.

In 1892, Elder Daniel R. Sayler drew up plans for a church house as a mission point of the Rocky Ridge congregation. This church on Altamont Avenue was dedicated August 21, 1892. In 1922, it was decided to organize the Thurmont church as a separate congregation.

After the Thurmont church was organized, a new church building was erected, and dedicated in 1923.

HARRIOT CHAPEL - CATOCTIN PARISH

REV. OSCAR F. R. TREDER, D.D., Rector

There are no existing records to show when Harriot Chapel was built. It is thought to have been built during the early years of the Furnace which dates back to Revolutionary times. The diary of Samuel Reineke, Moravian minister at Graceham, states that in 1827 "preaching in the English language every other Sunday was begun at the Furnace," also that on October 25, 1833, an Episcopal Church which received the name Harriot Chapel was dedicated at Brien's Iron Works by Bishop Stone.

Before the Chapel was consecrated, Mr. Brien had built to the existing stone chapel a frame chancel and sacristy. Harriot Chapel became a part of All Saint's Parish in Frederick.

In 1855 Harriot was made an independent congregation to be known as Catoclin Parish. The first rector was the Rev. H. I. Windsor. In about 1925, during the rectorship of the late Rev. Warren K. Damuth, the frame chancel was replaced by a stone chancel and sacristy, the stone being obtained from the old casting house of the iron works.

BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JULY 22

MORNING CHURCH SERVICES in the different churches

Church of the Brethren	11:00 A. M.
Episcopal, St. Stephen's	8:00 A. M.
Harriot Chapel	11:00 A. M.
Evangelical United Brethren	10:40 A. M.
Lutheran	10:45 A. M.
Methodist	11:15 A. M.
Mt. Carmel — Mass	7:00 - 9:00 A. M.
Reformed—Trinity	11:00 A. M.
Apple's on 29th	9:30 A. M.

Noon to 3:00 P. M. — REGISTRATION AT FIREMEN'S HALL

3:00 P. M. — DEDICATION OF FIREMEN'S HALL

7:30 P. M. — VESPERS and HYMN-SING — MEMORIAL PARK
(If rainy, services will be held in Reformed Church)

MONDAY, JULY 23

1:00 - 4:30 P. M. — TOUR OF THURMONT

Historical points of interest will be visited and a Lecturer will accompany the caravan. Buses leave Center Square 1:00 P. M. Fare 50c

8:00 P. M. — MOVIE — "THURMONT ON PARADE"

High School Auditorium. Sponsored by Thurmont Lions Club. A most interesting movie of Thurmont and community. Adults 40c, children 20c.

TUESDAY, JULY 24

4:30 P. M. — PICNIC — BASKET LUNCH

Sponsored by the Sportsman's Club at their Headquarters on Monocacy River near Creagerstown.

A very pleasant outing and evening of amusement awaits you.

Transportation will be arranged. Cars will leave Center Square at 4:15 P. M. No charge for this service.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

10:00 A. M. — JUDGING FLOWER and VEGETABLE GARDENS

Sponsored by the Thurmont Grange

10:00 A. M. — JUDGING HOMES and STORE WINDOWS

Sponsored by the Thurmont Homemakers

Cars will be provided for those wishing to accompany the Judges. No charge for transportation. Cars leave Center Square at 10:00 A. M.

1:30 P. M. — MEMORIAL SERVICES — U. B. CEMETERY and APPLE'S CHURCH

Sponsored by the American Legion. An impressive service honoring our Early Settlers and Veterans has been arranged.

5:30 - 7:30 P. M. — BUFFET SUPPER AT MEMORIAL PARK

An unusual buffet supper is being prepared. Chairs and tables are provided for your service.

7:30 P. M. — BAND CONCERT — YELLOW SPRINGS BAND

Charles C. T. Stull, Director.

THURSDAY, JULY 26

10:00 A. M. — OPEN HOUSE — CANNON SHOE COMPANY

11:00 A. M. — OPEN HOUSE — MOORE BUSINESS FORMS

3:30 P. M. — OPEN HOUSE — CLAIRE FROCK CO. INC.

Thurmont's latest business establishments. The management welcomes you and affords you an opportunity to see their plants in operation. Meet at the respective places at hour mentioned.

9:00 P. M. — PAGEANT — "THE GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAINS"

High School Auditorium. This is a highlight of the Bicentennial. Reserved seats 75c; Adults 60c; Children 35c

PAGEANT PROGRAM

Prologue

Indians of the Forest

The Arrival of Early Settlers

Activities of the Home

The First Match Makers

Pioneer Worship

School Days

Finale

FRIDAY, JULY 27

10:00 A. M. — OPEN HOUSE — GENERAL INDUSTRIES and SHOPS

Visit our various industries and shops. You will be welcomed and surprised at the activities of your own home town.

6:30 P. M. — BANQUET — HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

For Homecomers and Public — Price \$1.25

Another highlight of the Bicentennial, and an evening of pleasure awaits you.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

2:00 P. M. — BASEBALL GAME ON HOME GROUNDS

9:00 P. M. — PAGEANT — "GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAINS" Repeated

Reserved Seats 75c; Adults 60c; Children 35c

If you failed to see this pageant on Thursday night, be sure to enjoy it this evening. Very entertaining and instructive.

Miss Mildred Trevvett, Director.

SUNDAY, JULY 29

MORNING CHURCH SERVICES in the different churches

See schedule of services listed for July 22nd

Noon to 3:00 P. M. — REGISTRATION — FIREMEN'S HALL

12:00 Noon — OPEN HOUSE — AMERICAN LEGION HOME

1:00 P. M. — BAND CONCERT, 2ND ARMY BAND, CAMP MEADE

2:00 P. M. — DEDICATION OF AMERICAN LEGION HOME and
AUXILIARY FLAG

Auspices of American Legion. Post Commander Lloyd Mackley will advance the Colors. Prayer by Department Chaplain, the Right Reverend Eugene T. Stout. Mrs. James Rooney, President of the Auxiliary Department of Maryland, will dedicate the Colors of the Auxiliary. Main Address by Brig. General James P. Devereux. Dedication of building by Department Adjutant Daniel Burkhardt. Services for departed Comrades. Prayer by Aumonier of 40 & 8 Department of Maryland, Reverend Kenneth Buker. Taps.

7:30 P. M. — VESPERS — MEMORIAL PARK

Speaker — Rev. Clarence G. Leatherman, D.D.

Our Schools In Review

The first school in Mechanicstown is said to have been held in the house on West Main Street now occupied by Mr. Maurice Albaugh. The first school building was erected in 1796 on Water Street near the location of State Theater. The next school building erected stood on the site now occupied by the home of Mr. E. P. Hammaker on Church Street. Mr. Frederick White was probably the teacher. Receipts for payment of tuition dated in 1849 and signed by him have been found. Later "the old stone school-house" was built on what is now Altamont Avenue. Religious services were held in all these schoolhouses.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

MECHANICSTOWN FEMALE SEMINARY—Established by Lutheran Synod of Maryland in 1874.

In 1848 the "Academy" was erected by a group of citizens of the community on East Main Street. It continues in use as the property of the I.O.O.F.

The Mechanicstown Male and Female Seminary was established in 1874 by the Middle Conference of the Lutheran Synod of Maryland in the stone house on East Main Street, now the residence of Mrs. William Stoner. Rev. Victor Miller was principal. Later other private schools were conducted in the same building.

The first four-room elementary school building was erected on East Main Street. It is now owned by the Claire Frock Company. It was built in 1880 for all pupils of the district. The teachers, all men of out-



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

THE OLD ACADEMY, erected 1848. High school began here in 1892.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 4—Built in 1880 and used until 1916.
Now owned by Claire Frock Company.**

standing ability, were Mr. John Landers, Mr. Ephraim L. Boblitz and Mr. Frederick White. In 1891 Mr. Boblitz resigned and accepted the appointment of County School Examiner.

The first high school was established in the "Academy" building in 1892 with Mr. William M. Martin as principal. As customary at that time, it was a three-year course. In 1894 the first Commencement was held in the Town Hall with one graduate, followed the next year with a class of sixteen. Mr. H. D. Beachley succeeded Mr. Martin in 1895, and, in the following year conducted classes in a newly completed high school building. That building is now Maple Inn.

In 1910 the merger of high and elementary grades was effected, and, to take care of the increase in pupils, an annex was added to the elementary building. The enrollment soon outgrew the building capacity, and, hastened by a destructive wind storm in 1914 which damaged the building, the present central structure on East Main St. was erected in 1916. The west wing was added in 1928.

Again, with the adoption of the school consolidation program, facilities were inadequate and the building has been further enlarged with an auditorium, cafeteria and classrooms. The present enrollment is 851 pupils with 33 teachers, Mr. C. K. Chandlee, Principal. Seven busses are required to transport pupils from the surrounding areas to this central school.

**SCHOOL
ORGANIZATIONS**

The Parent-Teacher Association was organized in Thurmont in the school year of 1920-21. A very successful carnival was held in that year to raise funds for the use of the school. The carnival became an annual event until crowded conditions caused it to be discontinued.

Some of the noteworthy contributions made by this association during the past thirty years are: The planting of shrubbery and trees on the front lawn and in the rear of the school; contributing funds for the school library; furnishing athletic and playground equipment; the purchase of sound-motion picture equipment, and a Victrola machine.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL — built in 1916, wings were added in 1928 and 1950, and auditorium and cafeteria added in 1949.

The Room Mothers, an organization within the P-T.A., is composed of mothers of children in the elementary grades in school. Its purpose is to co-operate with the P-T. A., but also, as a smaller group, do more in meeting the needs of each grade by acting as a working group with the teachers of the elementary grades. The group was organized in 1932 and since has been tireless in its endeavors to improve the work and play facilities of the elementary grades by furnishing needed equipment for which the School Board makes no appropriation. In a social way they hold a reception each year for

teachers and Room Mothers to become acquainted, and give an annual party for all the children.

The Thurmont High School Alumni Association was formed in 1896 under the direction of Mr. William Martin, then principal of the school. Each year at Commencement time the Association holds a banquet with entertainment and speeches to welcome the new graduates. The high school has graduated 1296 pupils since its first class of one graduate in 1894, but only about 350 are active members of the Association.

Development Since Early Times

Time marches on and Thurmont has kept step as the following story of its development will show.



Courtesy of Geo. W. Wireman, Jr.

WESTERN MARYLAND RAILROAD DEPOT—Built in 1870

NEWSPAPERS

Mr. Isaiah Wolfersberger edited and published the first paper in 1860 under the name of **The Family Visitor**. The publication was short lived because it favored the Southern cause too strongly.

In 1870 **The Catoctin Clarion** made its appearance in Mechanicstown with William Need editor and publisher. In 1875 he disposed of it to Alexander P. Beatty. In 1879 Mr. Beatty sold it to E. L. Root and Charles E. Cassell, the latter being editor until 1904.

Owned by different companies after that time, it ceased publication in January 1940. In March 1940, **The Catoctin Enterprise**, edited and published by Geo. C. Rhoderick, Jr., of Middletown, Maryland, became the weekly newspaper.

Miss Blanche S. Eyler is the local news editor.

THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD

The Western Maryland Railroad was constructed to Mechanicstown in 1871 and extended to Hagerstown in 1872 giving fresh impetus to the business of the town. Express connections were soon established and telegraph wires erected. The first depot was located at the present cannery site, the first telegraph office on the Stocksdale warehouse site. From this time on the town grew rapidly.

In this connection one should speak of the electrical crossing bell, now universally used, invented by Richard J. O'Toole, one of the town's best mechanics and inventors. He maintained a shop on Boundary Avenue and was in the employ of the railroad when he developed this bell. A stock company was formed to manufacture the bells. Since the controlling interest in the company was owned by persons in Baltimore, the plant was moved to that place. Mr. O'Toole's financial share in the invention was lost, but the signal bell still remains a memorial to his genius.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

CATOCTIN COKE FURNACE — built about 1850. Last operated in 1901. It was razed in 1906.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

THE OLD CHARCOAL FURNACE at Catoctin Furnace.
Now an overgrown ruin.

CATOCTIN FURNACE

Three miles south of Thurmont are the ruins of the old Catoctin Furnace Iron Works. The deed for the original tract of land was given in 1768 by Frederick Calvert, the sixth Lord Baltimore, to Thomas Johnson, Maryland's first Governor, and Launcelot Jacques, a French Huguenot refugee to America, for the specific purpose of establishing a forge mill. This forge mill, located about a half mile south of the Furnace site, was in operation for a great many years. Discovery of good iron ore in the Ca-



Courtesy of Geo. W. Wireman, Jr.

THURMONT BANK — Organized 1889, building erected 1891.

toctin Mountain suggested the building of a smelting furnace. So Thomas Johnson, in partnership with his brothers, built the Catoctin Furnace in 1774. Charcoal was used for fuel; it, with the iron ore and limestone, being obtained locally.

The old Catoctin Furnace Iron Works played an important part in American history. During the Revolution cannon and cannon balls were manufactured here for the Continental Army commanded by George Washington. Simple machinery for James Rumsey's steamboat, first vessel propelled by steam in American waters, was made here. Nearly a century later it made the plates which protected the Monitor in its Civil War engagement with the Merrimac. The "Catoctin Stoves," made at the beginning of the nineteenth century, were famous.

During the Civil War period the Furnace was very prosperous. Ore mines were extended and capacity increased. It was at this time that a new coke-burning furnace was erected.

The decline of the Catoctin Iron Works began near the close of the nineteenth century, and Nature has almost obliterated all trace of its former activity.

MONOCACY VALLEY RAILROAD

The Monocacy Valley Railroad was built in 1886 by L. R. Waesche of Mechanicstown and Steiner Schley of Frederick. It was a steam line, four miles long, from Catoctin Furnace to Mechanicstown connecting, at the latter place, with the Western Maryland Railway. The chief purpose of this railroad was to haul coke to the blast furnaces at Catoctin to be used in reducing the iron ore, and to carry out the manufactured pig iron. Previous to this time the hauling was done by six-and eight-mule teams. These teams on the road between Mechanicstown and the Furnace were a familiar sight.

This railroad was in operation until the final closing down of the Catoctin Iron Works. It was then sold, and is now a part of the H. and F. Railway system operated by the Potomac Edison Company.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

MONOCACY VALLEY RAILROAD — built in 1886 to haul freight between Catoctin Furnace and Mechanicstown. Now part of H. and F.

CHANGE OF NAME

In 1894, by an act of the Maryland Legislature, the name of the town was changed to Thurmont, a significant name meaning "Gateway to the Mountain." This name was suggested by Charles E. Cassell, editor of *The Catoctin Clarion*.

THE THURMONT BANK

The Thurmont Bank was established in March, 1889, by Samuel M. Birely and Van B. Osler, under the firm name of Birely and Osler. They began in a small building on Main Street, and for twelve years conducted a general banking business upon safe and conservative methods. The present bank building was erected in 1891. Upon the death of Mr. Osler in 1901, Mr. Birely took in several associates, and the bank was chartered as the Thurmont National Bank with a capital of \$25,000. This was the first National Bank in the county outside of Frederick City. As it is no longer a National Bank, its name now is The Thurmont Bank with capital of \$50,000, a surplus of

\$75,000, and total assets of one and a half million dollars.

HIGH RUN WATER IS PIPED TO TOWN

The Mechanicstown Water Company was formed in 1887 and water mains were laid throughout the town bringing the pure water from the head-springs of High Run into the homes of the townspeople. This company, through its corporate name, links Thurmont with its past.

In this same year the Guardian Hose Company was organized as a volunteer fire company, and two heavy fire reels were purchased. In 1888 a drill team of outstanding ability and fame was formed.

A few years ago the old Town Hall was turned over to the fire company to be razed and a modern building erected. On July 4, 1950, the cornerstone of the new building was laid, and on February 7, 1951, the first firemen's meeting was held in the completed building.

The Guardian Hose Company is a member of the Maryland State Firemen Association and of the Frederick County Volunteer Firemen



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

NEW HOME OF GUARDIAN HOSE CO. — Built 1950. Dedicated July 22, 1951.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

FIREMEN'S DRILL TEAM, 1888 — Left to Right: Drummer Boys—Victory Cramer, Harry Cover; Members — Charles Black, William (Biddy) Sefton, Martin Foreman, Edwin Gernand, John Cover, William Black, Alfred Weller, Charles R. Eyler, Sr., Samuel B. Bennett, J. Irvin Mackley, Martin Buzzard, James Stokes, Edward L. Root, Edward Zeck, Harry Gaugh, M. Luther Creager, McClellan Baltzell, J. Wesley Creeger, Morris L. Rouzer, Henry W. Henshaw, John A. Stull, Charles H. Osler, George Wireman, Charles M. Mackley, Elmer E. Black, Charles M. Root, Calvin C. Fox, Robert E. Creeger, Henry Bennett, Frank Stokes.

Association. It has 185 members and recent purchases have brought its fire-fighting equipment up to date.

OUR TOWN HAS ELECTRIC LIGHTS

In 1908 the business men of Thurmont joined to install an electric plant to furnish light and power for the town. The Electric, Light and Power Company was organized and a \$25,000 bond issue floated to build a dam on Hunting Creek to furnish power and a plant to generate electricity. This plant operated successfully for fifteen years, but due to the growing demand for current and a shortage of water in dry seasons, it became necessary to purchase current from the Potomac Edison Company. The local plant later proving entirely inadequate was finally abandoned and all the current is now purchased from the Potomac Edison Company.

MEMORIAL PARK

A tribute to the brave, the true, the fine, the noble, is the memorial erected to World War I heroes. The rostrum in the center of the park is built of native stone and is surrounded by eleven scarlet oak trees — the trees in memory of the eleven young men who made the supreme sacrifice. The park was dedicated November 11, 1922, and was turned over to the town on November 11, 1928. It was accepted for the town by the mayor, Frank L. Cady.

CATOCTIN RECREATIONAL AREA

The Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area contains 9986 acres and is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. The development of this area was begun in 1936 and includes picnic grounds, tables, fireplaces, water, sanitary facilities, camps and pools. In 1942 Presi-



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PROMOTERS.

Standing, left to right: P. N. Hammaker, L. R. Waesche, Lester S. Birely, Charles M. Mackley, Morris A. Birely, Col. J. R. Rouzer, J. T. Waesche, M. L. Creager.

Seated: Thomas C. Lycett, J. P. T. Mathias, D. R. Rouzer.

dent Roosevelt selected the highest camp site on the Reservation for Shangri La and during World War II spent many week-ends there. Many notables have visited there, including President Truman, Winston Churchill, Lord Beaverbrook, and others.

Thurmont has other recreational facilities. The townspeople have always been baseball

enthusiasts and have supported fast-playing teams for many years. Bowling and other activities have had their followers, and our two tourist camps, Camp Cozy and Hoover's Blue Mt., are popular and well patronized. Music and the arts have not been neglected, and many of our young people have been outstanding in business and in the professions.

Thurmont In Review

Thurmont has made marked progress since the days our early settlers traveled their uncharted way through endless forests in carts and wagons searching for a site they might claim as home. History alone remains to tell of these pioneers, but the result of their efforts and determination to succeed is portrayed in our citizenry today. "Cold Spring" continues its gushing flow of unexcelled cold and refreshing water, but the old springhouse is in

a state of decay. The "first house" in Mechanicstown no longer stands alone, but is surrounded by a community of thrifty and enterprising people. The old tilt-hammer products are now replaced with machined tools; the saw mills have passed with the forests they devoured; substitute building materials have replaced lumber; paper cartons have outmoded the barrel staves; packing excelsior has given way to salt grass, and power poles are now

in from the South. The old wool mill with its linsey-woolsey, yarn and wool products is now superseded by a modern sewing factory manufacturing ready-to-wear. The tanneries went out with the scarcity of bark, and the heavy wagons and sturdy-built carriages have been lost to the rubber-tired farm vehicles and the automobile. The "Old Match House" still stands, a reminder that "Mechanics-town is the Home of the Lucifer Match." Our railroads have kept march with the times. The old Monocacy Valley has been extended and electrified, and the



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

MEMORIAL PARK—Dedicated Nov. 11, 1922. A memorial to those from the Thurmont District who served their Country in World War I.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

HUNTING CREEK SCENE — Catocin Recreational Area.

Western Maryland now operates modern diesel equipment over the most direct route into the rich coal belt of Western Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, traveling back through the same mountains our first settlers traversed two centuries ago.

The schools have been consolidated and now house more pupils than the community had population in those early days. Our stores, shops, industries, churches and homes have all continued to grow until Thurmont, according to the 1950 census, is the fastest growing community in Frederick County.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

ENTRANCE TO RECREATIONAL AREA leading to Shangri-La and camps.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

**NEW HOME OF AMERICAN LEGION —
Built 1950, Dedicated July 29, 1951**

FIREMEN'S PROGRAM

MONDAY, JULY 30

7:30 P. M. — BLUE RIDGE MELODY MAKERS

TUESDAY, JULY 31

7:30 P. M. — MARTINEZ and HIS SOCIETY ANIMAL CIRCUS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

6:15 P. M. — CORONATION OF "BICENTENNIAL QUEEN"

7:00 P. M. — MAMMOTH BICENTENNIAL-FIREMEN'S PARADE

8:15 P. M. — BAND CONCERT - BALTIMORE COLT'S BAND

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

7:30 P. M. — BAND CONCERT - YELLOW SPRINGS BAND

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

7:30 P. M. — BAND CONCERT - HARMONY BAND

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

7:30 P. M. — BAND CONCERT - HAGERSTOWN CIVIC BAND

This carnival promises to be one of the best the Firemen have ever held. Amusement and entertainment have been arranged to satisfy the desires of both young and old.

The parade will be outstanding. Colt's Band alone is well worth traveling far to hear. Floats of various organizations, churches, business establishments, stores and individuals will appear together with many other entries not mentioned.

Organizations

The Lions Club is the only service club in the Thurmont area. It was chartered by Lions International November 1, 1929. It is sponsor of the local Boy Scouts; it furnishes eye glasses to persons needing them if financial assistance is necessary. This year it is making a determined effort toward alleviating traffic problems in Thurmont. It has joined with other groups of the community in trying to get a better road between Emmitsburg and Frederick.

Boy Scouts. On February 8, 1939, twenty-three members of the local Boy Scout Troop No. 11 received their membership cards and pins at an Investiture service, conducted by the scout executive for the district, in the High School Auditorium. This marked the beginning of

scouting in Thurmont with Joseph E. Curfman their first scout master. Under the sponsorship of the Lions Club, the scouts entered enthusiastically into all scout activities. Scouting was dropped in 1943 but was resumed in 1944, and since then has been continuous. Under the guidance of different leaders, the scouts are learning the trail from boyhood to manhood.

The Girl Scout Lone Troop No. 1 was organized in May, 1940, by Miss Ethel Crawford, with over forty members. The Room Mothers Organization was its sponsor. The troop was very active in the early days of its existence, participating in the affairs of the community. In January, 1947, Lone Troop No. 2 was organized, also sponsored by the Room Mothers.

The girls ranged in age from nine to ten years and were much interested in their scout work. In March, 1947, the scouts observed the 35th anniversary of the founding of the organization in America, and a pageant, "Milestones," based on the life of the founder was presented. Due to lack of leadership, both troops have become inactive.

The Grange was quite active during the 1920s, but there is no record of its work. The present Thurmont Grange No. 409 was organized in 1946 and has about 55 members. It has constructed seven bus shelters for school children, has organized a health clinic in the community and actively assists in its operation. It has participated in conservation demonstrations, and it sponsored the mobile unit which X-rayed over 500 persons in Thurmont and Sabillasville.

Thurmont Homemakers' Club was organized in 1936 under the direction of Miss Florence Williams, Frederick County Home Demonstration Agent. It is affiliated with the county federation. Its projects are many, varied, and interesting. It is the sponsor of the local 4-H Group. Many of the members each year attend the Rural Woman's Short Course at the University of Maryland. This is a worthwhile vacation for a busy homemaker.

Thurmont Girls' 4-H Club was organized in 1939, sponsored by the Homemakers' Club. The girls have achieved success in cooking, sewing, and the fundamentals of homemaking. They participate in many activities, and have won both prizes and ribbons of merit for their work. In 1949 a group of younger girls was organized into a second 4-H Club under efficient leaders.

The Thurmont chapter, **Future Farmers of America** received its charter as a member of the national body on March 14, 1930. Throughout the years of its life the club has won first place in a number of contests in the county and state. The State Sanitary Milk Production contests have been won by the Thurmont chapter more than once and the permanent possession of the silver cup offered as first prize is theirs.

The Woman's Club of Thurmont was organized in 1906 with a literary and social objective. Club motto: "Through reading comes knowledge, with knowledge a broader life." Mrs. Harvey D. Beachley was the first president. Meetings are held twice monthly from October to May. Special features are a Christmas party at mid-season and a picnic in June.

Under the auspices of the **Ministerial Association** the union worship services are held during the year. The Vacation Bible School and a basketball league are also under its sponsorship.

American Legion. Edwin C. Creeger, Jr., Post No. 168 was organized November 21, 1945, with 54 charter members. Edwin C. Creeger, Sr., was the first Post Commander. This organization has made rapid progress from its beginning, is doing considerable altruistic work, offers many attractions for its comrades and others. A new legion home was opened July 1, 1950. Membership is now 244, Lloyd C. Mackley, Post Commander.

Acacia Lodge No. 155 F. and A. M. was chartered November 20, 1871, with eight members as follows: Charles E. Cassell, Worshipful Master; Henry C. Foreman, Senior Warden; David C. Martin, Junior Warden; Cost J. Carmack, Secretary; Leonard R. Waesche, Senior Deacon; Marion Uhler, Junior Deacon; George W. Zimmerman, Tyler. The lodge has enjoyed a continuous growth and its membership now exceeds 150. James R. Eyler, Jr., is Worshipful Master.

I.O.O.F. The oldest records show Good Samaritan Lodge No. 46 I.O.O.F. held meetings as early as 1854. The lodge purchased the old Academy building in 1870 and remodeled it in 1911.

Margaret Jones Rebekah Lodge No. 67 was organized March 31, 1921, with 114 charter members. Noble Grand was Mrs. James Firor. The organization supports civic projects and the I.O.O.F. Home in Frederick.

Jr. O.U.A.M. The Junior Order was instituted May 6, 1892, with twenty charter members. They hold their meetings in the I.O.O.F. Hall. For many years the Juniors sponsored Memorial Day services, but have now relinquished this program to the American Legion.

Sons of Temperance, the members of which pledged themselves to abstain from the use of alcoholics. To show posterity that the pledge was kept, the emblem of the order was placed on their tombstone. There are seven members in U. B. Cemetery who have been so honored.

The Brotherhood of **Jungle Cocks** was organized in Camp No. 1 Catoctin Recreational Area, April 23, 1939, with a membership of 37 men. Theirs is a branch of a nationally known organization interested in the preservation of wild life.

Thurmont Industries



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

CANNON SHOE COMPANY

The Cannon Shoe Company began operations in the K. of P. storeroom in 1944. A modern shoe factory was completed in 1945 and employed 75 workmen. The factory was enlarged in 1946 to its present size. It employs 175 persons and produces 1320 pairs of shoes daily. They specialize in shoes "for the whole family," and operate 102 stores. Mr. D. J. Bryan is Vice-President.

Eagle Broom Works was started by its present manager, Charles H. Spangler, in 1932, and has a capacity of fifty dozen brooms weekly. The plant is being enlarged to double capacity.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

CLAIRE FROCK CO., INC.

Claire Frock Company, Inc., was established in Thurmont by A. Jules Bernstein of York, Pa., in 1936 with thirty employees. The plant was greatly enlarged in 1948 and was equipped with the most modern cutting and pressing machinery, and a complete shipping department. The firm was incorporated in 1947, now employs 125 persons with an annual payroll of \$250,000 and a yearly production of 1,000,000 dresses.

The Creager Flower Shop is one of our oldest industries. It was begun in the early 1870's by Chambers Creager who raised not only flowers but also vegetable plants. His son succeeded him in the business, and the present owner, Allen Creager, is the grandson of the founder. Like his grandfather, he specializes in cut flowers, bedding and potted plants, and raises many thousand vegetables plants.



Photo Center, Thurmont, Md.

FARM EQUIPMENT CENTER

Gall and Smith purchased in 1932 a farm center and feed business with a store and dairy from D. Saylor Weybright. They added a refrigeration plant, enlarged the feed mill, and increased their general inventory. After the death of the senior members of the firm, Samuel T. Royer, Jr., joined the firm. Stocksdales warehouse was purchased for storage purposes. The American Stores Company purchased the store division in 1943, and the dairy was purchased by William C. Eyler. In 1948 a modern hardware store was built, and this has been sold recently to Weigle and Testerman. Gall and Smith continue to operate the feed business.

Late's Meat Market and Abattoir began when George F. Late and his son operated a meat market in the old Osler Building. Upon the death of his father, Howard continued the business. Today Late's meat market and abattoir is modern and complete, serving both wholesale and retail trade. It is one of the largest abattoirs in Western Maryland.

The Miller Mill Works, established in 1928, was located in the old furniture factory until 1943 when a larger and improved plant was built. Mr. Ralph W. Miller contracts for general building, and manufactures much of his own lumber, sash, and frames. The firm employs thirty men, does custom sawing, and handles general building supplies.

The Farm Equipment Center, Robert K. Remsberg, Proprietor, was started in November, 1945. A complete line of farming machinery and repairs, together with a large farm shop provides a much-needed service for the farmers.

The Fruit Industry has become one of Thurmont's largest. Extensive peach and apple orchards are found all along the foot hills of the mountain, the blossoms pleasing to the eye in the spring, and the ripe fruit eagerly sought after in the summer and fall. The owners of the largest orchards are: Russell N. Flanagan, Ira C. Kelbaugh, J. Hooker Lewis, E. L. Moser, Samuel Pryor and Sam Starbuck.

There are several smaller orchardists.

The Thurmont Ice Company was organized by the Wisotzkey brothers who installed a ten-ton ice plant in the old casket factory building. Charles Reid purchased the plant in 1933 and at present supplies the needs of Thurmont and the surrounding communities with crystal-clear ice from mountain water.

Miller's Bakery, originally "The Sweet Shop," Raymond C. Miller, Proprietor, was established in December, 1948, in the basement of the Miller home on Carroll Street. It specializes in wedding cakes, sweets, and fancy baking. The family of three are kept busy supplying the trade.

The Hoke Wood Products Company was organized in 1943, Lloyd Hoke, Proprietor. The old furniture factory was purchased, new machinery added and the manufacture of furniture panels, juvenile furniture and swings was begun. The plant was enlarged in 1951, and now has thirty-five employees.

The Thurmont Flooring and Lumber Company was incorporated in 1949 with Lee Sayler, General Manager. This firm manufactures kiln-dried flooring and deals in lumber and building supplies. At present eleven employees are making pallets for the Government.



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HAMMAKER BROTHERS, INC.

L. R. Waesche & Sons, road building contractor, is successor to Leonard R. Waesche who conducted the business as sole owner from 1915 to 1925, at which time he took his son, Clinton, into partnership. In 1928 the business was incorporated as L. R. Waesche & Sons. The firm owns and operates extensive equipment and builds fine roads. President and General Manager, Clinton F. Waesche.

The Thurmont Cooperative stands on the site where Daniel R. Rouzer built his flour mill in 1896. This mill, in 1928, was consolidated with Rocky Ridge and Sabillasville firms and incorporated as a farmer's cooperative. The structure was destroyed by fire in 1942, after which this modern and complete milling and supply establishment was built which meets the farmer's every need. D. Saylor Weybright is General Manager.

The Hammaker Marble and Granite Works was established by B. Frank Hammaker in 1874, and ten years later he transferred the business to his brother, Peter N. Hammaker. Upon the death of the latter in 1925, his nephews, Frank E. and Ernest P. Hammaker purchased the business, operated it as Hammaker Brothers, and employed two men. The firm now, in addition to the Thurmont plant, has establishments in Hagerstown, Frederick, and Bethesda. It does outstanding work and employs twenty-five persons. The firm was in-

corporated in 1947 as "Hammaker Brothers, Inc.," with Ernest P. Hammaker, President.

Western Maryland Canning Company, on the site of one owned and operated by Root Brothers and which was destroyed by fire, is operated by Jenkins Brothers, Inc. Peas, beans and tomatoes are processed. In rush periods as many as 120 persons are employed.



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THURMONT CO-OPERATIVE



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MOORE BUSINESS FORMS

The Turkey Industry in Thurmont had its beginning in 1937 when the "Hillside Turkey Farms," owned and operated by Ross V. Smith and Samuel T. Royer, Jr., was organized. It is our largest turkey industry. From a small beginning, this firm has increased its production until today 4,500 poults are hatched weekly. The firm reserves 4,000 for breeders and raises 15,000 for market. Modern and scientific methods of marketing are applied, and there is an ever increasing market for their product.

Mr. William Zentz, another turkey farmer, also began his industry in a small way in 1941. He now markets 1,800 turkeys annually.

Another large producer is E. G. Terpenning who, in 1938, began raising turkeys on a 400-acre tract known as "Gladstone Farm." Mr. Terpenning specializes in bronze turkeys and has increased his stock to 1,600 breeders from which he sells eggs, has his own poults hatched, and raises 3,000 turkeys annually.

There are other producers on a smaller scale, so that the total production in the Thurmont district is approximately 25,000 turkeys annually.

Thurmont Upholstering Establishment is one of Thurmont's newest enterprises. It is owned and operated by James Black and is located in the old K. of P. Building. Established in March, 1938, the business has developed rapidly. Mr. Black employs three helpers and specializes in slip covers and drapes together with reconditioning furniture.

Moore Business Forms, Inc., of Niagara Falls, New York, broke ground for its building in Thurmont in May, 1950, and its first order was shipped before the building was completed. This branch of the firm prints business forms known as "Speedisets." The building has 30,000 square feet of floor space and is arranged for expansion. Twenty-three persons are employed at present, but the number will be increased to seventy-five in 1951. It is planned to employ local people entirely.

The Goldfish Industry, begun in the 1870s in Lewistown, developed rapidly. By 1920 Frederick County produced 80% of the goldfish used in the United States, and they were shipped everywhere, from Maine to California. The industry was centered at Thurmont and Lewistown. Over-production with sagging prices has caused many producers to go out of business. The present condition of the business can be summed up in the remark made by one of the local growers: "I don't need any more fish, what I need is more customers." Our local producers are Fred Tresselt and Maurice J. Albaugh.

Pryor's Antique Shop was opened in May, 1948, in the old Willhide and Creeger establishment at the corner of Main and Carroll Streets, William S. Pryor and son, proprietors. They do a fine service in refinishing antiques, and maintain a shop of fine specimens.

Thurmont Cleaners, established by William Specht in the Lawyer Building, West Main Street, was transferred to Richard Stride and his wife in 1948. The Strides increased the service, erected a new and modern building, and now operate a fleet of three trucks and employ six additional workers.

Committees

STEERING COMMITTEE

Howard R. Damuth ---- General Chairman
D. Saylor Weybright ----- Vice Chairman
S. Elmer Barnhart ---- 2nd Vice Chairman
George W. Wireman, Jr. ----- Secretary
Edgar B. Palmer ----- Treasurer

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Mrs. Ernest Hammaker ----- Co-Chairman
Miss Ethel Crawford ----- Assistant

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Mrs. Maude Prendergast	Mrs. Lottie Gall
Miss Viola Stocksdale	Mrs. Marie Ruch
Mrs. John Creeger	Mrs. Gertrude Stoner
Mrs. Raymond Creager	Mrs. Nellie Landers Jones
Miss Linnie McGuigan	Mrs. Mary Royer
Miss Grace Henshaw	Miss Catherine Albaugh
Mrs. Rose Waters	Mrs. Ray Kincade
Mrs. Jane Damuth	

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Mrs. Lottie Gall
Mrs. Belva Martin
Mrs. Fannie Weller
Miss Ada Crouse
Miss Grace Henshaw
Mr. Ross Firor
Mr. Allen J. Williar
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George Hahn
Franklin Firor
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Tolbert Lawyer
William Sanders
Claude Favorite
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Mrs. Victor Kifer
Mrs. Charles C. Waters
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Wilbur R. Freeze, Chairman

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Charles Reid
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Ross V. Smith

Mrs. Marie Ruch, Co-Chairman
Clinton Waesche
William Pryor
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Samuel Royer, Jr.
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Miss Laura Sylvester ----- Historian

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William S. Pryor
S. E. Barnhart
Miss Janet Boller
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TOUR COMMITTEE

Lee J. Kelbaugh, Chairman
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Mrs. Ethel Willhide, Co-Chairman	Mrs. Cordie Seipler
Mrs. Luther Robinson	Miss Addie Baltzell
Mrs. Calvin Lohr	Mrs. Milton Lawyer
Mrs. Floyd Elower	Mrs. Luther Buhrman
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Mrs. Chester Zentz
Mrs. Robert L. Lillard
Mrs. Russell Flanagan
Mrs. Viola Seipler
Mrs. Hewitt Crosby
Mrs. Ray Naugle
Mrs. John M. Weddle
Mrs. Harry A. Zentz
Mrs. Vernon Fisher
Mrs. Ralph Stottlemeyer
Mrs. Allen Creager
Mrs. Leroy Dinterman
And Others.



View looking West on Main Street. Loaned by Courtesy of George W. Wireman, Jr.

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